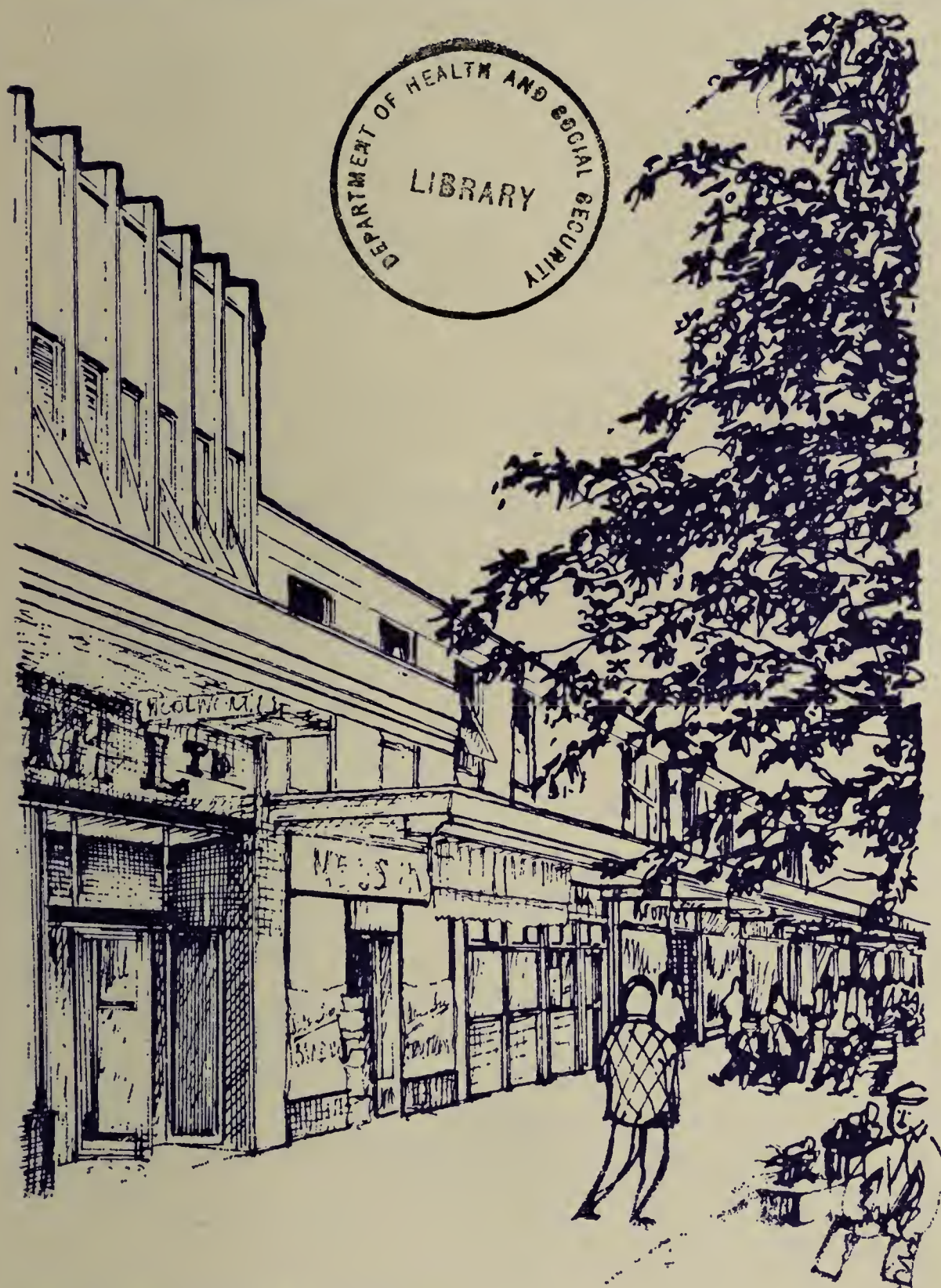


SPENNYMOOR

URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH



FOR THE YEAR 1972

TOGETHER WITH THE SUMMARY OF WORK OF THE CHIEF
PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR AND CLEANSING OFFICER

**THE
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL
OF SPENNYMOOR**

**ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
AND OTHER RECORDS
FOR THE YEAR
1972**

DURHAM :
G. BAILES & SONS LIMITED

1973

THE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF SPENNYMOOR

Chairman of the Council 1972-73 :

COUNCILLOR MRS. R. ORTON

Vice-Chairman :

COUNCILLOR R. D. LONG

Chairman of the Health Committee :

COUNCILLOR E. BRAUER

Vice-Chairman :

COUNCILLOR A. FRANKS

Chairman of the Housing Committee :

COUNCILLOR J. W. RUTTER

Vice-Chairman :

COUNCILLOR J. C. ARMSTRONG

Councillors

T. ADAMS, J. C. ARMSTRONG, DR. E. BRAUER, C. BRAYSHAW, R. H. BROWN, MRS. M. CAMPBELL, T. W. CHATTERTON, C. DAILEY, MISS O. DOBSON, A. FRANKS, K. JACKSON, F. A. KENMIR, G. K. KERWOOD (resigned 18/5/72), J. KITSON, R. D. LONG, J. A. MURRAY, MRS. R. ORTON, J. T. RICHARDSON, V. ROBSON, J. W. RUTTER, J. G. STOREY, A. STELLING, J. R. TAYLOR, DR. K. WOOD (resigned 25/5/72).

Public Health Officers of the Authority

Medical Officer of Health—AUDREY WILKINSON, L.R.C.P., L.M., L.R.C.S.I., M.F.C.M., D.P.H. Also Medical Officer of Health, City of Durham, Durham Rural District and Urban District of Brandon & Byshottles. Assistant County Medical Officer, County Durham.

Chief Public Health Inspector—N. ROBINSON, C.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I., M.Inst.P.C., Qualified Public Health Inspector, Meat and Other Foods Inspector, Smoke Inspector and Cleansing Officer.

Deputy Chief Public Health Inspector—B. G. COLLINSON, C.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I., Qualified Public Health Inspector, Meat and Other Foods Inspector and Smoke Inspector.

Additional Public Health Inspector—R. A. W. MARSHALL, M.A.P.H.I., Qualified Public Health Inspector, Meat and Other Foods Inspector.

Clerk—MRS. F. M. BELL

Clerk/Typist—MRS. D. OLIPHANT

Pests Officer—R. FAIRHURST

INDEX OF CONTENTS

	Page.
Councillors and Staff	2
Medical Officer of Health's Introduction	4
Summary of Vital Statistics	5
Natural and Social Conditions and Vital Statistics	6-10
Health Services in the Area:	
Laboratory Services	11
General Medical Services	11
Hospital Services	11-12
Health Services provided by Durham County Council	12-14
Chiropody Service for the Aged	14
Meals on Wheels	14
Luncheon Club	15
Prevalence of, and Control over, Infectious and Other Diseases	16-20
Report of the Public Health Inspector	21-22
Water Supply	23
Slum Clearance	24
Council Houses	24
Rent Act, 1957	25
Common Lodging Houses... ..	25
Factories Act, 1961... ..	25-26
Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act, 1963	26-27
Inspection and Supervision of Food	28-32
Scrap Metal Dealers Act, 1964	32
Public Cleansing	32-33
Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949	33-34
Public Health Inspector's Summary, 1971	34
Improvement Grants	35
Number of Properties in the District	36

HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
20 HIGH STREET,
SPENNYMOOR.

Telephone: Spennymoor 2761

DL16 6DB

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting the annual report for 1972.

The birth rate is 15·5 compared with 16·7 per 1,000 population in 1971.

The infant mortality rate is less than previously and the perinatal mortality rate is the same as for the County and higher than England and Wales.

The death rate is higher than in 1971, the biggest toll being in the population over the age of 55 years, heart disease being the cause of death in 34% of cases, while cerebrovascular respiratory malignant diseases remain high.

The infectious diseases have not given cause for concern in spite of a rise in the number of children affected by measles and scarlet fever, but this state may not continue if use is not made of the immunisation programme offered.

It is fortunate that there were no cases notified of dysentery or food poisoning, due to good standards of food cleanliness and personal hygiene.

There is a good record of voluntary work undertaken for the elderly and we thank the W.R.V.S. members and all who help with the Meals on Wheels and Luncheon Clubs. We thank the chiropodist for his services.

I am most grateful to Mr. N. Robinson and the members of the Health Department for the efficient and harmonious working of the department, and to the members of the Health Committee for their support during the year.

Your obedient servant,

A. WILKINSON,

Medical Officer of Health.

ANNUAL REPORT, 1972

SUMMARY OF STATISTICS.

Live Births

Number	...	...	...	...	...	...	294
Rate per 1,000 population (crude rate)	...	...	...	...	...	...	15.2
Illegitimate Live Births (per cent of total live births)	...	...	...	...	...	...	7.0

Stillbirths

Number	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Rate per 1,000 total live and still births	...	...	...	...	...	...	13
Total Live and Still Births	...	...	...	...	...	...	318
Infant Deaths (deaths under 1 year)	...	...	...	...	...	...	4

Infant Mortality Rates

Total infant deaths per 1,000 total live births	...	...	...	...	...	...	14
Legitimate infant deaths per 1,000 legitimate live births	...	...	...	...	...	...	15
Illegitimate infant deaths per 1,000 illegitimate live births	...	...	...	...	...	...	—

Neo-natal Mortality Rate (deaths under 4 weeks per 1,000 live births)	10
---	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	----

Early Neo-natal Mortality Rate (deaths under 1 week per 1,000 live births)	10
--	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	----

Perinatal Mortality Rate (stillbirths and deaths under 1 week combined per 1,000 total live and still births)	23
---	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	----

Maternal Mortality (including abortion)

Number of deaths	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
Rate per 1,000 total live and still births	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil

Deaths

Number	...	...	...	...	...	...	254
Male	...	...	...	...	...	...	141
Female	...	...	...	...	...	...	113

Death Rate per 1,000 population (crude)	13.1
---	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	------

Area in Acres	7,543
---------------	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-------

Population (Registrar General's Estimate)	19,320
---	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	--------

Estimated number of inhabited houses	6,888
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Rateable Value (1st April, 1972)	£740,683
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Sum represented by a new penny rate	£8,732
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Registrar General's Area Comparability Factors:

Births	1.02
Deaths	1.21

Section A.

NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS AND VITAL STATISTICS.

1. NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

Area—7,543 acres. The District consists of six wards; it borders with the Urban Districts of Bishop Auckland and Crook and Willington and the Rural Districts of Durham and Sedgefield.

The acreages of the Wards are as follows:—

Spennymoor Ward	...	...	...	1,134
Low Spennymoor Ward	...	...	...	329
Middlestone Ward	...	...	...	1,215
Merrington Ward	...	...	...	1,822
Byers Green Ward	...	...	...	1,130
Tudhoe Ward	...	...	...	1,913

Industries—Light Engineering, Coal Mining and Agriculture are the main industries.

Population—The Registrar General's estimate of the mid-year population is 19,320, an increase of 310 on the figure for 1971.

The approximate populations of the various Wards in the district have been assessed as follows:—

Spennymoor Ward	...	...	...	4,068
Low Spennymoor Ward	...	...	...	2,761
Middlestone Ward	...	...	...	3,519
Merrington Ward	...	...	...	1,145
Byers Green Ward	...	...	...	927
Tudhoe Ward	...	...	...	6,900
				<hr/>
				19,320
				<hr/>

Inhabited Houses—The estimated number of inhabited houses in the district is 6,888.

2. VITAL STATISTICS.

Registrar General's Area Comparability Factors—These figures are a means of adjusting the rates for births and deaths so that the population of the District is directly comparable with the population of England and Wales as a whole, in so far as distribution of age and sex is concerned. The adjusted rates are those to be compared with the rates for England and Wales and the similarly adjusted rates for other areas. The Comparability Factors are as follows:—Births 1.02; Deaths 1.16.

Births—During the year there were registered 150 male births and 144 female births. Of this total of 294, 20 were illegitimate. There were 21 less births than in 1971. The birth rate (adjusted) was 15·5 as compared with 16·7 for 1971.

Table I shows the Birth Rate in comparison with those for England and Wales and for the Administrative County of Durham over the past ten years.

Deaths—254 deaths were registered during the year, 141 males and 113 females.

The Death Rate (adjusted) of 15·2 is higher than the adjusted rate for last year (13·3). Table I shows a comparison with the rates for County Durham and for England and Wales.

Table III shows the individual causes of death.

Infant Mortality (Deaths of children under one year of age)—4 children died before reaching one year of age (as did six last year), the infant mortality rate being 14.

The rate for Durham County for 1972 is 19·0 and for England and Wales 17·0.

The actual numbers of deaths for the past 10 years are:—

1963	...	...	14	1968...	...	5
1964	...	...	3	1969...	...	5
1965	...	...	7	1970...	...	6
1966	...	...	8	1971...	...	6
1967	...	...	4	1972...	...	4

The four children who died before reaching one year of age were all less than four weeks old. The neo-natal mortality rate is 10 compared with 10 for England and Wales and 14 for Durham County.

The stillbirth rate (13·0) is above the rate for England and Wales (12·0) and the rate for Durham County is 12·0.

The perinatal mortality rate is 23·0 compared with 22 for England and Wales and 23 for County Durham.

Table II shows comparative rates.

Maternal Mortality—There were no deaths during the year attributable to maternal causes.

The Maternal Mortality rate for County Durham for 1972 is 0·25 and for England and Wales 0·15.

TABLE I

VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE DISTRICT FOR 1972 AND PREVIOUS YEARS
COMPARATIVE TABLE WITH ENGLAND AND WALES AND WITH DURHAM COUNTY
FOR THE PAST TEN YEARS

YEARS	Birth Rate per 1,000 population			Death Rate per 1,000 population			Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 live Births		
	Spennymoor UDC	England & Wales	Durham Co.	Spennymoor UDC	England & Wales	Durham Co.	Spennymoor UDC	England & Wales	Durham Co.
1962 ...	16.23	18.0	18.6	10.52	11.9	11.6	31.74	20.7	26.0
1963 ...	17.44	18.2	18.2	15.23	12.2	11.6	52.06	20.9	22.5
1964 ...	15.56	18.4	18.3	14.15	11.3	10.9	12.56	20.0	22.9
1965 ...	14.72	18.1	18.1	12.78	11.5	11.4	31.13	19.0	20.6
1966 ...	14.47	17.7	17.3	14.58	11.7	11.7	36.38	19.0	21.0
1967 ...	14.07	17.2	17.0	13.11	11.2	10.9	15.57	18.8	20.7
1968 ...	13.53	16.9	16.1	15.12	11.9	11.5	20.0	18.3	20.0
1969 ...	12.70	16.3	15.5	14.60	11.9	12.1	22.0	18.0	16.0
1970 ...	15.3	16.0	15.6	15.9	11.7	11.8	21.0	18.0	19.0
1971 ...	16.7	16.0	16.0	13.3	11.6	11.7	19.0	18.0	19.0
Mean for 10 years 1962-1971...	15.1	17.3	17.1	13.9	11.6	11.5	26.15	19.1	20.8
1972 ...	15.5	14.8	14.8	15.2	12.1	12.3	14.0	17.0	19.0

TABLE II

TABLE COMPARING PERINATAL RATES OF ENGLAND AND WALES AND OF DURHAM
COUNTY WITH THOSE OF SPENNYMOOR OVER THE PAST 10 YEARS.

Years.	Spennymoor U.D.C.	England and Wales	Durham County
1962	22.2	30.8	35.7
1963	44.0	29.3	32.4
1964	40.6	28.2	33.5
1965	64.8	26.9	30.7
1966	22.4	26.3	28.6
1967	15.3	25.4	26.6
1968	27.9	25.0	25.9
1969	38.0	23.0	26.0
1970	14.0	23.0	25.0
1971	22.0	22.0	22.0
Mean for 10 years 1962-1971 ...	31.1	26.0	28.6
1972	23.0	22.0	23.0

TABLE III
CAUSES OF DEATH DURING 1972.

CAUSES OF DEATH	Total	Male	Female
ALL CAUSES	254	141	113
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	1	—	1
Malignant Neoplasm, Oesophagus	2	2	—
Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach	4	2	2
Malignant Neoplasm, Intestine	11	6	5
Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus	9	7	2
Malignant Neoplasm, Uterus	2	—	2
Leukaemia	3	1	2
Other Malignant Neoplasms	9	5	4
Diabetes Mellitus	2	2	—
Other Endocrine etc., Diseases	1	—	1
Other Diseases of Blood, etc.	1	—	1
Other Diseases of Nervous System, etc.	3	1	2
Chronic Rheumatic Heart Disease	7	2	5
Ischaemic Heart Disease	67	44	23
Other Forms of Heart Disease	20	12	8
Cerebrovascular Disease	41	16	25
Other Diseases of Circulatory System	10	6	4
Pneumonia	18	7	11
Bronchitis and Emphysema	16	14	2
Other Diseases of Respiratory System	1	—	1
Peptic Ulcer... ..	2	—	2
Intestinal Obstruction and Hernia	1	—	1
Cirrhosis of Liver	1	—	1
Other Diseases of Digestive System	1	—	1
Nephritis and Nephrosis	4	2	2
Other Diseases, Genito-Urinary System	2	1	1
Congenital Anomalies	1	—	1
Birth Injury, Difficult Labour, etc.	2	2	1
Motor Vehicle Accidents	5	3	2
All other accidents	3	2	1
Suicide and Self-Inflicted Injuries	1	—	—
All other External Causes	3	3	—

TABLE IV
DEATHS AT VARIOUS AGE PERIODS.

	-1	1+	5+	15+	25+	35+	45+	55+	65+	75 & over	Total
Males	3	—	—	4	2	2	8	35	44	43	141
Females	1	1	—	1	—	1	6	10	30	63	113
TOTAL	4	1	—	5	2	3	14	45	74	106	254

Section B.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES

1. LABORATORY SERVICES.

- (i) Department of Pathology, Dryburn Hospital, Durham.
- (ii) Public Health Laboratory, General Hospital, Westgate Road, Newcastle.
- (iii) County Analyst, County Hall, Durham.

2. GENERAL MEDICAL SERVICES.

Durham County Executive Council, Green Lane, Old Elvet, Durham.

Seven medical practitioners in general practice reside within the district.

3. HOSPITAL SERVICES.

Newcastle Regional Hospital Board,

Benfield Road, Newcastle upon Tyne, 6.

Durham Hospital Management Committee,

Dryburn Hospital, Durham.

South-West Durham Hospital Management Committee,

General Hospital, Bishop Auckland.

(a) *General.*

- (i) Dryburn Hospital, Durham.
- (ii) St. Margaret's Hospital, Durham (Long Stay).
- (iii) Bishop Auckland General Hospital.

(b) *Maternity.*

- (i) Dryburn Hospital, Durham.
- (ii) Princes Street Maternity Home, Bishop Auckland (temporarily closed).
- (iii) Bishop Auckland General Hospital.

(c) *Infectious.*

- (i) Highfield Hospital, Chester-le-Street.
- (ii) Langley Park Isolation (Emergency Smallpox Reserve).

(d) *Tuberculosis.*

- (i) Bishop Auckland General Hospital.
- (ii) Chest Clinic, Dryburn Hospital, Durham.
(Static Mass Radiography unit open to general public daily.)
- (iii) Mass miniature Radiography Unit, General Hospital, Newcastle upon Tyne.

(e) *Psychiatry.*

- (i) Winterton Hospital, Sedgefield.
- (ii) Binchester Whins Hospital, Bishop Auckland. (Mental Handicap).
- (iii) Durham County Hospital (under conversion, expected to be available for services by June 1973).

(f) *Venereal Disease Clinic.*

General Hospital, Newcastle upon Tyne.

4. HEALTH SERVICES PROVIDED BY DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL.

(i) *Health Department*(a) *School Health Service.*

There are 17 schools in the District comprising 3 secondary, 13 primary and a day school for handicapped children. There is one Central Kitchen of the Schools Meal service. Most schools now have their own kitchens attached.

(b) *Ambulance Service.*

The District is served from the ambulance depot at Bishop Auckland and from the Ambulance Headquarters at Framwellgate Moor, Durham.

The figures below show work done by Bishop Auckland Ambulance Depot:—

Number of persons who used the service	...	31,293
Number of stretcher cases	... ..	8,540
Number of sitting cases	... ..	22,753
Mileage travelled	... ..	231,546

(c) *Health Visiting.*

No of Health Visitors covering the district	...	3
---	-----	---

(d) Home Nursing

District Nursing Sisters are aligned to Medical Practitioners and the number of patients nursed whose medical practitioner's main surgery is within the area is as follows:

Patients Home	...	...	...	...	379
Health Centres	...	...	...	...	0
G.P. Premises	...	...	...	...	107

(e) Midwifery

Births notified in 1972 are as follows:—

				<i>Live</i>	<i>Still</i>
Hospital	...	...	...	248	5
Domiciliary	...	...	...	47	0

*(ii) Social Services Department**(a) Domestic Help.*

No. of Home Helps employed during year	...	86
Cases attended 1st January, 1972	...	149
New cases during the year	...	54
Cases terminated during the year	...	63
Cases attended 31st December, 1972	...	140

Breakdown of cases attended during the year:—

<i>(a)</i> Maternity (including expectant mothers)	...	—
<i>(b)</i> Tuberculosis	...	1
<i>(c)</i> Chronic sick (including aged and infirm)	...	198
<i>(d)</i> Others	...	4

(b) Mental Health.

No. of persons registered as mentally subnormal	149
No. of persons under supervision in their own homes	113
No. of persons in hospitals for the mentally subnormal	36

(c) *Welfare Services.*

	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
No. of Blind persons on register ...	37	42	79
No. of partially sighted persons on register	15	11	26
No. of deaf and dumb persons on register	2	5	7
No. of hard of hearing persons on register	21	13	34
No. of physically handicapped persons on register	232	191	423
No. of persons maintained in residential accommodation	14	15	29
Persons on waiting list for residential accommodation at end of year ...	4	6	10

5. NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACTS, 1948 AND 1951.

No statutory action was taken during the year involving Section 47 relating to removal of persons in need of urgent care and attention.

6. CHIROPODY FOR THE AGED.

This was the eighth year of operation for the service, which is provided for females over 60 years of age and males over 65 years of age. The service is organised on a voluntary basis.

Three sessions are held each week, one on a Monday morning and two the following day. The sessions are held in the premises of Mr. Horner, Chiropodist, and domiciliary treatments are provided for those requiring them. The treatment is provided on an appointments system.

The number of persons treated was 216 and 695 treatments were given. Twenty-three had domiciliary treatment with a total of 71 treatments.

The Clinic ceased to operate in August this year when the service was then provided by the County at the new Health Centre.

7. MEALS ON WHEELS.

The Meals on Wheels Service for the elderly people in the district, operated by the Women's Royal Voluntary Service, continued to function throughout the year.

The meals are obtained from the factory canteen of Messrs. Thorn Electrical Industries Ltd., and served to 92 persons on Mondays and Wednesdays and to 64 persons on Tuesdays and Thursdays of each week. A charge of 5p per meal is made to each recipient. The costs of the service, including the running and maintenance costs of a delivery van, are shared equally between this Council and the County Council.

8. LUNCHEONS CLUBS

- (a) On Tuesdays and Thursdays of each week 20 lunches are served to elderly persons at the W.R.V.S. office in Parkwood Precinct, Spennymoor, a charge of 5p is made for the meal. Following lunch the participants are allowed to stay on the premises until 3.00 p.m. for general discussion or the playing of dominoes and cards.

The costs of the service are shared equally between this Council and the County Council.

- (b) During September a Luncheon Club was formed at Tudhoe for persons over 70 years of age. The meals are obtained from the National Coal Board Offices, Green Lane, Spennymoor. On Thursdays of each week 30 luncheons are served to elderly persons in St. David's Church Hall, and a charge of 5p is made for the meal. The costs of this service are shared equally between this Council and the County Council.

Section C

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

Table VIII shows the number of infectious diseases notified during the year.

Propaganda leaflets drawing attention to the need for children to be protected against poliomyelitis, whooping cough, diphtheria and tetanus, are sent by the County Health Department to those parents who have not consented to their children being vaccinated or immunised under the computer operated appointment scheme when their children attain the age of four months. Further information regarding immunisation against diphtheria is sent when the children are one year old. All such information gives details of the facilities available for vaccination and immunisation.

SCARLET FEVER.

There were 13 cases compared with 1 in the previous year.

WHOOPING COUGH.

There were no cases during the year (1 in 1971).

Table X shows the number of immunisations which took place during 1972.

ACUTE POLIOMYELITIS.

There were no cases during the year.

Vaccination against poliomyelitis was continued, at Maternity and Child Welfare Centres, at clinic sessions held in these centres and in schools and by general practitioners in their surgeries under their own arrangements.

POLIOMYELITIS VACCINATION—SPENNYMOOR URBAN DISTRICT
YEAR ENDED, 31ST DECEMBER, 1972.

PRIMARY							
Age Group	1972	1971	1970	1969	1965-68	Others under 16	Total
No. immunised ...	—	189	54	29	18	—	290

REINFORCING DOSES							
Age Group.	1972	1971	1970	1969	1965-68	Others under 16	Total
No. immunised ...	—	—	1	—	203	—	204

MEASLES.

117 cases were notified, as against 11 last year. The cases were, in the main, mild in character and no deaths were attributable to the disease.

MEASLES VACCINATION—SPENNYMOOR URBAN DISTRICT
YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER, 1972.

Age Group	1972	1971	1970	1969	1965-68	Others Under 16	Total
No. immunised ...	—	105	59	19	10	1	194

DIPHTHERIA.

There were no cases of diphtheria notified in the district and Table X shows the number immunised in the district during the year.

SMALLPOX.

There were no cases.

The number vaccinated in the district during the year is shown on Table X.

DYSENTERY.

No cases were notified during the year.

PARATYPHOID FEVER.

There were no cases notified.

FOOD POISONING.

No cases of food poisoning were notified.

TUBERCULOSIS.

The number of new cases notified was 3 as compared with 8 in the previous year. The new cases notified were of the pulmonary form. The table below shows the distribution of age groups.

There was 1 death from the disease of Tuberculosis notified in 1972.

Age Group				Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
				M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1	...	...	...	—	—	—	—
Under 5	...	...	...	—	—	—	—
5—14	...	...	...	—	—	—	—
15—24	...	...	...	—	1	—	—
25—44	...	...	...	—	—	—	—
45—64	...	...	...	—	—	—	—
65 Upwards	...	...	...	1	—	—	—
Age Unknown	...	...	...	—	1	—	—
Total	...	...	...	1	2	—	—

TABLE VI.

TUBERCULOSIS

NEW CASES AND DEATHS OVER THE LAST TEN YEARS.

	New Cases		Deaths	
	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary
1962... ..	7	1	1	—
1963... ..	5	1	1	—
1964... ..	1	—	1	1
1965... ..	—	3	1	1
1966... ..	6	—	—	—
1967... ..	6	2	—	1
1968... ..	3	1	—	—
1969... ..	4	1	—	—
1970... ..	1	1	2	—
1971... ..	7	1	—	—
Mean for ten years 1962-1971 ...	4.0	1.1	0.6	0.3
1972... ..	3	—	—	—

B.C.G. Vaccination against tuberculosis of school children over the age of eleven years attending schools in the district was continued during the year. The Heaf Multiple Puncture Skin Test was used. The following table shows the numbers involved.

TABLE VII.

B.C.G. VACCINATION OF SCHOOL CHILDREN

No. tested	Positive Reactors		Negative Reactors Given B.C.G.		No. absent at time of reading	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
303	7	2.00	262	86.4	27	8.9

One child was not vaccinated for medical reasons.

TABLE VIII

	Number of cases notified		
	1970	1971	1972
Scarlet Fever	14	1	13
Whooping Cough	9	1	—
Acute Poliomyelitis:			
Paralytic	—	—	—
Non-Paralytic	—	—	—
Measles	184	1	117
Diphtheria	—	—	—
Smallpox	—	—	—
Acute Encephalitis:—			
Infective	—	—	—
Post Infective	—	—	—
Enteric or Typhoid Fever	—	—	—
Paratyphoid Fever	—	—	—
Acute Meningitis	—	—	—
Food Poisoning	—	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	—	—	—
Infective Jaundice	3	1	—
Tuberculosis:—			
Respiratory	1	7	3
Meninges and CNS	—	—	—
Other Forms	1	1	—
Leptospirosis	—	—	—
Tetanus	—	—	—
Malaria	—	—	—
Plague	—	—	—
Cholera	—	—	—
Anthrax	—	—	—
Typhus Fever	—	—	—
Relapsing Fever	—	—	—
Yellow Fever	—	—	—
Dysentery	—	—	—

TABLE IX.

[illegible]

TABLE X

COMPLETED PRIMARY COURSES								REINFORCING DOSES						
Age Group	1972	1971	1970	1969	1965/68	Others under 16	Total	1972	1971	1970	1969	1965/68	Others under 16	Total
Diphtheria ...	—	188	53	25	26	1	293	—	—	2	—	205	—	207
Whooping Cough	—	188	53	25	4	—	270	—	—	2	—	5	—	7
Tetanus ...	—	188	53	25	24	24	314	—	—	2	—	209	19	230

SMALLPOX VACCINATION				
	1 Year	2-4 Years	5-15 Years	Total
Primary Vaccination ...	3	1	—	4
Re-vaccination ...	—	—	—	—

Section D.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

To the Medical Officer of Health,

Once again it gives me pleasure to record the activities of the Department.

Steady progress has been made over the whole range of public health functions which has been achieved much more easily due to the reduction of involvement in clearance work and meat inspection duties.

The main aim of the Department is to achieve the highest standards possible at offices, shops and food premises, endeavouring to maintain a sound refuse collection service, operating an efficient pest control service and tackling the work of ascertaining the extent of domestic air pollution by volumetric measurement. In the housing sector we have become more involved in the improvement and repair of dwellings.

Much discussion has taken place at officer level and at Committees concerning the future life of various properties, which re-emphasises the fact that the Council have now cleared the majority of grossly unfit dwellings. I personally feel it is regrettable that more positive action was not undertaken by the clearance of Weardale Street (West) and certain other areas in the Spennymoor ward.

Constant problems have arisen due to fouling of walkways and insanitary conditions of lifts and stairways at Bessemer Park Estate. Thought should be given to the provision of public conveniences mainly for the use of children on the estate.

The Council's Surveyor is just as concerned as myself at the effect of incentive bonus schemes resulting in a reduction of manpower available for street sweeping throughout the town.

The Council has been encouraged to embark on a programme of Smoke Control for the built up part of the Urban District. The time is fast approaching when the designation "black" areas should be discontinued and for "white" areas to shake off any shades of grey. No one these days, who has an understanding of the problem, should have any doubts about the benefit that Smoke Control can bring about. Conversions and work of adaptations by householders of their own free will, also modern housing using smokeless fuels means that expense of the authority in finishing the job will be considerably reduced and a case should be made for this work to rank as Key Sector expenditure when the full benefits of exchequer grant may be made available to householders.

In conclusion I wish to thank the Chief Officers and my staff for their support during 1972.

NORMAN ROBINSON,

Chief Public Health Inspector.

1. WATER SUPPLY.

(a) *Source.*

Water is supplied for the whole of the Urban District by the Durham County Water Board and the supply has been satisfactory in both quality and quantity during the year.

The bulk of this supply is obtained from the Tunstall impounding reservoir and treatment works. The Tunstall Pressure Filter Plant was constructed in stages between 1937 and 1950 and now consists of 28 steel units with a total capacity of over 3 million gallons a day of filtered water.

Because of the need to find a substantial new source of supply the Durham County Water Board and the Sunderland and South Shields Water Company joined forces some years ago to build a new reservoir, the Derwent Reservoir, in the neighbourhood of Edmondbyers. This reservoir, one of the largest in the country, has a capacity of 11,000 million gallons and is designed to produce a yield of 32 million gallons a day.

The clear filtered water from the treatment plant is discharged into a reservoir of 3 million gallons capacity.

Part of the Urban District, namely the village of Kirk Merrington, including North Close, is supplied with water from this reservoir.

(b) *Purity.*

Mr. D. G. Drummond, Chief Engineer of the Durham County Water Board, has kindly supplied the following information relating to the water supply.

The natural fluoride content of the water varies from 0.1 to 0.65 p.p.m.

Most water exhibits some plumbo solvent action. The Board's waters are pH corrected to have the minimal plumbo solvent effect.

The unmetered consumption of water for the whole of the Board's area is 34 gallons per person per day.

The metered consumption of water for the whole of the Board's area is 16.87 gallons per person per day.

During 1972, 10 bacteriological samples were taken in the Council's area. Nine samples were satisfactory and one sample was unsatisfactory. The unsatisfactory sample was re-sampled and found to be satisfactory.

There were 7,057 houses supplied through 'open' domestic connections and 96 properties supplied through meters at the end of 1972.

2. SLUM CLEARANCE.

(a) *Individual Unfit Houses*

During the year Orders were made in respect of the following properties:—

<i>Property</i>	<i>Order</i>
9 Vine Street, Byers Green	Demolition.
Dakers House, Todhills	Demolition.
15 Green Lane, Spennymoor	Closing.
2 Durham Road, Binchester Moor	Closing.

(b) *Houses in Clearance Areas*

In 1972 Compulsory Purchase Orders were confirmed on the following areas:—

North Street	5 properties
Jackson Street	4 properties
Durham Road	2 properties
Cuthbert Street	6 properties
Grainger Street	4 properties
Old Fenwick Street	16 properties

The King James Street and King William Street areas comprising 94 properties in all were represented as unfit during 1972.

3. COUNCIL HOUSES.

The total number of houses owned by the local authority at the end of the year was 3,033. Of these, 74 were erected in the pre-war period 1936 to 1938.

The North Eastern Housing Association has provided 502 houses in the Council's area, of which 280 were erected in the pre-war period. The location of the Association's houses is identified in the following table:—

<i>Situation</i>						
Lyne Road	...	...	...	...	...	44
Brewery Field Estate	...	...	...	...	...	88
Racecourse Estate	...	...	...	...	...	106
Ox Close Crescent	...	...	...	...	...	112
St. Andrew's Road	...	...	...	...	...	110
Derwent Terrace	...	...	...	...	...	42
TOTAL						502

NUMBER OF COUNCIL BUNGALOWS COMPLETED DURING 1971.

Housing Site	1 bedroom	2 bed-rooms	3 or more bedrooms	Totals
Durham Road	—	12	—	12
Totals	—	12	—	12

4. RENT ACT, 1957—CERTIFICATES OF DISREPAIR.

No applications were received for the issue of certificates of disrepair.

5. COMMON LODGING HOUSES.

There are no registered common lodging houses in the area.

6. FACTORIES ACT, 1961.

FACTORIES INSPECTION

Inspections for purpose of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspector).

PREMISES (1)	No. on Register (2)	Number of		
		Inspections (3)	Written Notices (4)	Occupiers Prosecuted (5)
Factories in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	35	29	3	—

Cases in which DEFECTS were found (if defects were discovered at the premises on two, three or more occasions they are counted as two, three or more 'cases')

Particulars (1)	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted (6)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred		
			To H.M. Inspector (4)	By H.M. Inspector (5)	
Sanitary Conveniences ... (S.7)					
Unsuitable or defective ...	7	7	—	4	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork) ...	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL ...	7	7	—	4	—

Four persons were notified as outworkers.

Nature of work	Section 133			Section 134		
	No. of outworkers in August list required by Sec. 133 (1) (c)	No. of cases in default in sending lists to Council	No. of prosecutions for failure to provide lists	No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises	Notices served	Prosecutions
Wearing Apparel	4	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

7. OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963.

(a) The following gives details of the registered premises in the Urban District and shows the number of persons employed.

	Registered Premises	Persons Employed
Offices ...	31	623
Shops ...	69	402
Wholesale Shops, Warehouses ...	1	11
Catering establishments open to the public, Canteens ...	18	126
Fuel Storage Depots ...	3	18

(b) During the year numerous visits were made to enforce the provisions of the Act and to give advice where necessary. The following table gives an analysis of the contraventions found to exist under the Act:—

Section						Number of contraventions found
4	Cleanliness	...	...	...	...	15
5	Overcrowding	...	...	...	...	—
6	Temperature	...	...	...	...	3
7	Ventilation	...	...	...	...	9
8	Lighting	...	...	...	...	4
9	Sanitary Conveniences	...	...	...	...	7
10	Washing facilities	...	...	...	...	12
12	Clothing accommodation	...	...	...	...	6
13	Sitting facilities	...	...	...	...	—
16	Floors, passage and stairs	...	...	...	...	5
24	First Aid	...	...	...	...	5
Total						66

(c) During the year four accidents were reported involving employees in registered premises, all were minor accidents and were not attributable to any breach of the Act.

TABLE XI

CARCASSES AND OFFAL INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED IN WHOLE OR IN PART

	Cattle excl. Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep	Pigs	Total.
Number killed	101	—	—	239	112	452
Carcases inspected	101	—	—	239	112	452
<i>All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci:</i>						
Whole carcasses condemned ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	16	—	—	22	8	46
Weight of carcasses/parts con- demned (in lbs.)	140	—	—	80	35	255
Percentage of carcasses inspected condemned in part or whole ...	15·8	—	—	9·2	7·1	10·2

(b) *Pre-war and Post-war slaughtering.*

The following table gives an indication of the decrease in slaughtering which has taken place in the district due to the closure of one slaughter-house:—

		Cattle	Cows	Calves	Sheep	Pigs	Total
1937	...	784	176	15	450	480	1,905
1938	...	828	240	12	252	420	1,752
1955	...	1,887	203	43	4,935	2,221	9,289
1961	...	3,909	525	45	10,180	3,033	17,692
1962	...	3,594	874	48	12,455	3,223	20,194
1963	...	3,079	1,293	97	10,682	4,158	19,309
1964	...	2,518	1,234	97	11,038	3,660	18,547
1965	...	2,411	671	63	10,757	4,274	18,176
1966	...	2,615	593	61	14,306	4,480	22,055
1967	...	3,264	543	43	16,741	3,181	23,772
1968	...	3,815	352	40	19,345	3,648	27,200
1969	...	3,876	742	64	20,296	4,724	29,702
1970	...	3,714	1,322	47	21,968	4,783	31,834
1971	...	3,910	1,045	69	19,576	5,715	30,315
1972	...	101	—	—	239	112	452

(c) *Slaughter of Animals (Prevention of Cruelty) Regulations, 1958.*

Returns received from the two local knacker yards of animals received into their premises during the year and slaughtered for other than human consumption are given below:—

				Horses		Ponies	
1971				Live	Dead	Live	Dead
January	...	...	...	1	2	2	3
February	...	...	...	—	7	—	2
March	...	...	...	—	4	1	5
April	...	...	...	2	3	4	4
May	...	...	...	1	5	—	7
June	...	...	...	2	4	—	2
July	...	...	...	3	—	2	2
August	...	...	...	1	5	1	—
September	...	...	...	2	3	—	1
October	...	...	...	—	6	2	4
November	...	...	...	3	1	1	1
December	...	...	...	—	8	1	3
Totals ...				15	48	14	34

(d) *Slaughter of Animals Act, 1958.*

There were 11 licensed slaughtermen on the register at the end of the year.

(e) Food Inspection.

Foodstuffs condemned as unfit for human consumption were as follows:—

				lbs.	ozs.
Canned Meats	...	...	...	232	—
Other Canned Foods	...	...	...	4480	—
Other Foods	...	...	...	1108	—
				<hr/>	<hr/>
Total	...	...	...	5820	—
				<hr/>	<hr/>

(f) Disposal of Condemned Food.

Carcases of animals condemned are sent to a processor at Darlington. Small quantities of unfit food are buried in the Council Refuse Tip.

(g) Food and Drugs Act, 1955.

During the year no new premises were registered under Section 16 of the Act which states:—

“No Premises shall be used for:—

- (a) The sale, or the manufacture for the purpose of sale, of ice-cream, or the storage of ice-cream intended for sale, or
- (b) The preparation or manufacture of sausages or potted, pressed, pickled or preserved food intended for sale,

unless they are registered under this section for that purpose by the local authority”.

A total of 54 premises are registered under this section. 34 premises are registered for the storage and sale of ice-cream and three premises in the district are used for the manufacture of ice-cream. 11 Samples of ice cream submitted to the Department of Pathology, Dryburn Hospital, Durham, for bacteriological examination, provided the following results.

Grade I	...	...	9
Grade II	...	...	—
Grade III	...	...	1
Grade IV	...	...	1

(h) Bakehouses.

There are 4 bakehouses in the area.

(i) Fish Shops.

Eleven premises are in use in the area as fish shops.

(j) Milk Supply.

The County Council are responsible for the issue of milk licences and the County Health Inspectors regularly take samples of milk and consequently no sampling has been done by this authority.

The following summary shows the results of the testing of samples taken in this area:—

44 samples were tested; all were satisfactory

(k) Brucella Abortus.

No routine sampling is done by this Authority because of the close liaison with the County Health Inspector (as mentioned in the previous paragraph) but where *Brucella* is suspected, joint action will be taken.

(l) The liquid Egg (Pasteurisation) Regulations, 1963.

There are no liquid egg pasteurisation plants in the district.

(m) Poultry Processing Premises.

There are no poultry processing premises in the district.

(n) Food Complaints

Throughout the year 13 customer consumer complaints were received and each one investigated by the department. Although no legal action was taken the following are brief examples of some of the complaints received:

- (1) A complaint was received regarding a metal staple which had been found in a fruit cake. The Public Analyst could not state definitely that the staple had been baked in the cake, and the manufacturer stated that if this had been so then it was the responsibility of the firm supplying him with dried fruit.
- (2) A number of complaints were received regarding bread which was suspected of having foreign matter embedded in it. In most cases the foreign matter turned out to be particles of dough or crust which had been baked twice.
- (3) Feathers found in a tin of chicken soup and the manufacturer's themselves stated that the offending item was four small brown feathers attached to a portion of meat.

8. SCRAP METAL DEALERS ACT, 1964.

During the year four certificates of registration were issued. There are now 22 Scrap Metal Dealers registered under this Act; two of these have a scrap metal store in the area and 20 are itinerant collectors.

9. PUBLIC CLEANSING.

(a) *Trade Refuse and Salvage.*

During the year 133 tons of fibreboard were collected, baled and subsequently sold to the Paper Mills and £1,711·30 was realised.

(b) *Staff.*

To carry out the work of the Department, 20 workmen are employed as follows:—

- 1 Foreman (acts as Foreman for Surveyor's Department also)
- 1 Bulldozer Driver/Tip Attendant.
- 1 Salvage Wagon Driver/Collector.
- 1 Salvage Collector/Baler Operator.
- 3 Drivers.
- 13 Fillers.

The help of additional, temporary personnel is enlisted to cover annual holidays and sickness.

(c) *Vehicles.*

Five vehicles are used in the collection of refuse:—

- 2 Paxit (25/40 cu. yd. capacity)
- 1 Karrier Dual Tipper (18 cu. yd. capacity)
- 1 Karrier Dual Tipper (12 cubic yard capacity)
- 1 Derby Salvage Vehicle (10 cubic yard capacity)

The large wagons have a crew of five men including Driver, and the smaller wagon a crew of three Fillers and a Driver.

10. PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949.

A full-time Pests Officer is employed by the Council and during the year 641 treatments were carried out—280 for rats; 175 for mice; 62 for cockroaches; and 124 others. In addition routine monthly visits are made to Cesspools, Refuse Tips, Sewage Works, and re-inspections to treated properties. Test baiting of the sewer system is carried out twice yearly.

		Type of Property.	
		Non-Agricultural.	Agricultural.
<i>Properties other than sewers.</i>			
1.	Number of properties in district ...	8,190	47
2.	(a) total number of properties (including nearby premises) inspected following notification	212	3
	(b) number infested by (i) Rats ...	92	3
	(ii) Mice ...	115	2
3.	(a) Total number of properties inspected for rats and/or mice for reasons other than notification	249	32
	(b) Number infested by (i) Rats ...	102	29
	(ii) Mice ...	36	22

16. PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR'S SUMMARY SUBMITTED TO DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL FOR THE YEAR, 1970.

CLOSING AND DEMOLITION OF HOUSES.

(a) *Formal Action.*

(i)	No. of houses demolished during the year as a result of Clearance Schemes or other formal action	62
(ii)	No. of houses closed but not demolished as a result of formal action	1
(iii)	No. of houses in Clearance Areas and Individual Unfit houses demolition of which temporarily postponed ...	6
(iv)	No. of houses in use as temporary accommodation ...	—

(b) *Informal Action.*

(i)	No. of houses permanently discontinued as dwellings as a result of informal action and not included above ...	—
-----	---	---

RECONDITIONING AND REPAIR.

Number of houses made fit during the year by procedure under Housing Acts (excluding temporary accommodation) or Public Health Acts:—

(a)	As a result of informal action	23
(b)	By owners as a result of statutory notice	—
(c)	By Local Authority in default of owners	—

IMPROVEMENT GRANTS

	Number of separate houses	
	Discretionary Grant	Standard Grant
(a) Applications submitted to Council during the year	430	4
(b) Applications rejected by Council during the year	3	—
(c) Total number of applications approved since inception of scheme	1100	230
(d) Total number of grants paid since inception of scheme	692	157

Ashpit-privies converted into water-closets	...	...	—
Ash-closets converted into water-closets	...	...	3
Total number of water-closets in District	...	...	8,534
Total number of ash-closets in District	...	...	16
Number of ashpit-privies in District	...	...	—

New houses and flats completed during the year	With State Assistance	Unaided	Total
(a) By local authority	12	—	12
(b) By any other Housing Authority ...	—	—	—
(c) By private persons	—	138	138

NUMBER OF PROPERTIES IN DISTRICT FROM STATISTICAL ANALYSIS OF
NUMBERS AND RATEABLE VALUES OF ALL HEREDITAMENTS ASSESSED IN
VALUATION LIST 1ST APRIL, 1971.

Dwellinghouses	...	...	...	...	...	...	6768
Shops with Dwellings	...	...	...	...	...	...	92
Shops without Dwellings	...	...	...	...	...	...	168
Offices	...	...	...	...	...	...	34
Public Houses	...	...	...	...	...	...	40
Hotels & Boarding Houses	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Restaurants	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Warehouses, Stores & Workshops	...	...	...	...	...	...	43
Garages & Filling Stations	...	...	...	...	...	...	65
Lock up Garages	...	...	...	...	...	...	832
Advertising Stations and signs	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
Industrial	...	...	...	...	...	...	19
Public Utility—Water	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Gas	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Electricity	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Coal	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Post Office	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Sports & Recreation Grounds	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Other places of recreation	...	...	...	...	...	...	13
Social clubs and community halls	...	...	...	...	...	...	13
Libraries	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Schools	...	...	...	...	...	...	17
Crown Properties	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
Hospitals, Clinics	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Cemeteries	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Sewage Disposal Works	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Municipal Offices	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Others (not classified)	...	...	...	...	...	...	36
Agricultural Premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	47

